



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***ELECTRONIC LAUNCH OF ARIZONA STEPS UP: A STATEWIDE
PARTNERSHIP FOR EQUITY IN PROCUREMENT
Governor's Equity in State Contracting Initiative Releases Online Database***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano announced today the release of Arizona Steps Up: A Statewide Partnership for Equity in Procurement, an online directory of certified women- and minority-owned small business vendors. This database is in response to Executive Order 2004-29, Contracting with Small Women-Owned and Minority-Owned Businesses.

Arizona Steps Up is an effort of the Governor's Equity in State Contracting Initiative, a partnership of the Governor's Office, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the cities of Phoenix and Tucson. The initiative is intended to increase State use of minority- and women-owned small business Vendors.

The directory is an electronic reference source for public and state procurement and purchasing personnel to locate these enterprises that seek to do businesses with the State. Each business included in the directory has been certified as small, minority- or women- owned with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the City of Phoenix or the City of Tucson.

Executive Order 2004-29, signed December 17, 2004, directs that Executive Branch agencies shall promote the use of women- or minority-owned small business enterprising as subcontractors and suppliers. Arizona Steps Up provides easy access to a wide range of certified small, minority- and women-owned businesses to meet the State's procurement needs. Vendors can be contacted electronically through the database search results.

The Arizona Steps Up database is available at www.arizonastepsup.com and can be used by the general public in addition to State personnel.